

**BROKEN ARROW CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 13, 2002**

1. The Broken Arrow City Council met in regular session at the Public Works Facility on Monday, May 13, 2002, at 7:30 P.M. Mayor James C. Reynolds called the meeting to order.

Present: Mayor James C. Reynolds  
Vice-Mayor Tony Petrik  
Councilman Richard Carter  
Councilman Craig Thurmond (entered during Item 4)  
Councilman Wade McCaleb

Staff Present: Michael D. Kadlecik, City Manager  
Farhad Daroga, City Planner  
Branon Dodd, Safety & Risk Manager  
Jay Heinrichs, Controller  
Brenda Ray, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk  
Paul Rhodes, Utilities Division Chief  
Allen Stanton, Chief Building Inspector  
Michael Vanderburg, City Attorney  
Dave Wooden, Public Works Director

3. Mayor Reynolds led the Council and audience in the pledge of allegiance.

4. The Council considered a demonstration by Public Works concerning the tort claim of Robert and Mona Miron regarding a sewer flood that occurred on January 25, 2002, at 1030 North Juniper Place. Public Works Director Dave Wooden passed out pictures showing a major back up on the Haikey Creek sewer line where workers found a television, lumber, mattresses, and other articles in the manhole.

Councilman Thurmond entered the meeting.

Mr. Wooden stated the demonstration will start with a jet truck tied into a service line. He stated the city's older sewer jet holds 500 gallons and has a maximum output of 60 gallons a minute whereas the new jet truck holds 1,000 gallons and has a maximum output of 40 gallons a minute. Mr. Wooden showed the nozzle that knocks out clogs and stated 1,200 psi goes through the small holes in this pipe. Mr. Wooden stated the Miron's claim that we shot a 4' high wall of sewer water into the house from the jet truck is not possible. Two valves (Simulated Clogs) on the main sewer line were then shut off so that the entire output of the jet truck came out of the service line. This would simulate what the Miron's claimed happened. A 1/4" hole in the pipe was used for simulation purposes (Even though this was a much larger opening than was actually in the jet truck nozzle) and the jet truck was turned on. After a couple of minutes the water elevated to a maximum height of 4-6" inches.

Mr. Wooden then explained how the problem actually occurred. He stated that the Miron's house is 6' below code when compared to the nearest upstream manhole. It was discovered that the nearest upstream manhole to their house was covered with 8-10 inches of dirt and grass. He stated the next manhole is 12 feet above the floor elevation of the Miron's house and that was simulated by the manhole at the demonstration site. Mr. Wooden stated that stand-by was originally called to 1107 N. Juniper Avenue and started downstream to find the first dry manhole. The first dry manhole standby found was the manhole downstream of the Miron's rental property at 1030 N. Juniper. He then started the demonstration by running the jet truck from the downstream manhole to the simulated clog that was downstream of the Miron property service line. The city knows the clog was downstream of the Miron property because standby used only 30 feet of jet hose to reach the clog and the service line is 65 feet from the manhole. The City Council was asked to observe that no water came out of the service line. All water from the jet truck was running down the sewer line to the simulated dry manhole. Mr. Wooden then simulated the clog being upstream of the service line by removing the downstream clog. The jet truck was started again and the water was forced to the next closed valve (Simulated clog). The water was still going down a dry hole. The City Council was asked to observe that no water came out of the service line. All water from the jet truck was running down the sewer line to the simulated dry manhole. Mr. Wooden then demonstrated how it is impossible for the City's jet truck pipe and nozzle to turn to go into a service line. Mr. Wooden stated his opinion of what happened on the night the Miron property was flooded. He stated that he believes the clog in the line originally occurred upstream of the Miron property and due to pressure buildup it moved and lodged itself downstream of the Miron property service line, forcing water into the Miron's rental property because they did not have a backflow preventer. This was demonstrated by replacing the simulated clog downstream of the Miron property service line and allowing the 12-foot head of water in the manhole to surge down the sewer line. The City Council was asked to observe that water 4 to 5 feet high was flowing out of the service line but no water was coming out of the line with the backflow preventer. Mr. Wooden also stated the renter in the house told our workers that water was coming out of their sink, bathtub, etc. prior to the city placing the jet truck in the dry manhole.

In response to Councilman McCaleb, Mr. Wooden affirmed that once the clog started downstream and lodged, the sewer water found the closest home without a backflow preventer and relieved itself at that point. If it had hit a manhole that opened up, it would have overflowed there, but the closest manhole was covered in a backyard. He stated workers are uncovering manholes when they find them and noted the city's GPS System will be used for locating manholes. Councilman Thurmond stated he thought all new homes should be required to have a backflow preventer. Mr. Wooden stated the current code is applicable only to homes that are below the upstream manhole and that homebuilders were opposed to more. Mr. Wooden also stated we are getting more grease from the fast food industry and noted our system is in fairly good shape with 20 back-ups a month compared to other cities. In response to Councilman Thurmond, Paul Rhodes and Dave Wooden stated they support the installation of backflow preventers on all homes. Mr. Wooden also noted in a previous test, the backflow preventer was under 80 pounds pressure and it did not break. Mayor Reynolds thanked Mr. Wooden for the demonstration.

Mr. Vanderburg stated the Executive Session on the agenda is there if the Council desires one.

Motion by Petrik, second by Carter to proceed into Executive Session.

Aye: McCaleb, Thurmond, Carter, Petrik, Reynolds

Nay: None

Motion carried.

5. Executive Session for the purpose of confidential communications between the City Council and its attorney concerning a possible settlement in the claim of Miron V. BA, all under 25 O.S. ¶ 307B4.

Mayor Reynolds reconvened the regular Council meeting at 5:51 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Petrik, second by Carter to adjourn.

Aye: McCaleb, Thurmond, Carter, Petrik, Reynolds

Nay: None

Motion carried.